

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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SUBJECT: SUDOMO INTERVIEW IN TEMPO ON DETAINEE RELEASES

1. THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW WITH KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO ON THE SUBJECT OF THE 1977 RELEASES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES APPEARED IN INDONESIA IN TEMPO MAGZINE'S DECEMBER 3 ISSUE. WHILE IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENT ON RELEASE POLICIES, IT REFLECTS SUDOMO'S THINKING ON THE ISSUE IN GENERAL. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE MENTION FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT A LIST OF THE RELEASEES WILL BE PUBLISHED TEN DAYS BEFORE THEY ARE RELEASED.

2. QUOTE: IN MID-DECEMBER 10,000 OUT OF 31,000 G3OS PRISONERS OF CLASS B NOW LIVING IN SOME 60 INREHAB (REHABILITATION INSTALLATION) SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY-- WILL BE SET FREE. SO KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO IS BUSY. LAST WEEK HE INSPECTED THE BUNTOK AND AMBORAWANG RESETTLEMENT CENTERS IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN AND EAST KALIMANTAN RESPECTIVELY. A WEEK EARLIER HE INSPECTED THE TANJUNG KASAU INREHAB AND THE RESETTLEMENT AREA IN
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THE SUBDISTRICT OF SIBIRA, KABUPATEN OF SIDIKALANG, NORTH SUMATRA. "I NEED TO MAKE FIELD INSPECTIONS, TO CHECK BOTH TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND SAFEGUARDING MEASURES," THE ADMIRAL SAID.

RESETTLEMENT CENTERS FOR THE FORMER PRISONERS WHO WILL ALL BE LIBERATED IN 1979 ARE LOCATED IN SEVEN PLACES. FOR

THIS, ADMIRAL SUDOMO AT ONE TIME DEMANDED A BUDGET OF RP. 14 BILLION, BUT HE WAS GIVEN ONLY RP. 500 MILLION. BELOW FOLLOWS AN INTERVIEW OF YUSRIL JALINUS FROM TEMPO WITH ADMIRAL SUDOMO.

QUESTION: WILL THEY BE FREED UNCONDITIONALLY?

ANSWER: YES, BUT OF COURSE CERTAIN PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED IN GOING FROM BEING PRISONERS TO BEING FREE. FIRST THEY STAY AT HOME, THEY THEY MAY CIRCULATE, AND FINALLY THEY ARE FREE.

Q: IS THIS MEASURE THE RESULT OF "PRESSURES," FOR EX-AMPLE FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL?

A. IT WAS FIRST PLANNED IN 1972 TO RELEASE THEM, NOT BECAUSE OF PRESSURES OF OUTSIDERS WHO WISH TO INTERFERE. WE MUST INDEED FACE THE ISSUE RAISED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAT THE RESETTLEMENT PLAN COULD BE A SECOND BURU. THIS IS PURELY A DOMESTIC AFFAIR.

Q: YOU HAVE SAID SOME 30 PERCENT OF THE PRISONERS ARE "OBSTINATE". WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

A: THEY STILL HAVE A STRONG IDEOLOGY AND WISH TO RESTORE THE PKI'S (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDONESIA) GLORY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE ARE STILL TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM THAT THEY ARE WRONG.

Q: WHAT IF YOU CAN'T?

A: I AM CONVINCED WE CAN. TAKE THE TANJUNG KASAU INREHAB, FOR INSTANCE. THEY ARE BUS WORKING AND FORGET THEIR IDEOLOGY. I RATHER WORRY ABOUT THOSE DETAINED IN MILITARY DETENTION PLACES (RTM). THERE THEY CAN'T BE ACTIVE, AND AS A RESULT THEY MAY OR MAY NOT BE CURED.

Q: IS THERE CONCERN THAT THOSE WHO ARE FREED WILL AGAIN EMBRACE THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY?

A: THIS WE CANNOT ASCERTAIN NOW. IN THE TALKS WITH THEM, WE KNOW THAT SOME OF THEM STILL CLING TO THEIR IDEOLOGY STRONGLY. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT YEARLY 200 OLD TIMERS -- NOT NEW CADRES -- ARE ARRESTED.

Q: WHO IS THE IMPORTANT FIGURE THAT WILL BE RELEASED? PRAMUDYA ANANTA TOER? (A WELL KNOWN WRITER)

A: MANY CC (CENTRAL COMMITTEE) AND CBD (GREATER REG-

IONAL COMMITTEE) MEMBERS HAVE DIED. THERE IS A PLAN TO
RELEASE PRAMUDYA, BUT I WILL CHECK IT FIRST.BUT YOU
JUST WAIT. THEIR NAMES WILL BE PUBLISHED TEN DAYS BEFORE
THEIR RELEASE.

Q: MAY THEY RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL PROFESSION?
FOR INSTANCE, MAY PRAMUDYA WRITE AGAIN?

A: YES. BUT AFTER THEY ARE FREE FROM THEIR HOUSE
ARREST. FOR THEY ARE SET FREE BY STAGES.

Q: ON THE ONE HAND, THE GOVERNMENT SETS THEM FREE,
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS WARNS AGAINST
THE LATENT PKI DANGER. DOES NOT THIS CONFUSE THE FOR-
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MER PRISONERS AND ALSO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

A: THAT IS NOT CONTRADICTORY, FOR THERE IS SUCH A DAN-
GER. THERE ARE RISKS TO THIS POLICY OF RELEASING THEM,
BUT WE SEEK TO MINIMIZE THEM. WHEN WE SAY THERE IS A
LATENT DANGER, WHAT WE MEAN IS THAT WE MUST BE ALERT.
THAT'S ONLY A WARNING. END QUOTE.
MASTERS

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